

Send down or forking Observatory

Chicago Program

HENRY IVES COBB
ARCHITECT.

115 BROADWAY, NEW YORK. Dec. 22, 1903.

W. L. Davidson D. D.
1419 F. Street,
Washington, D. C.

MY Dear Doctor:

I have been puzzling over the contents of your letter of Dec. 16th, and I do not see just what we are to do. Assuming it will take \$35,000. for mounting the lense. I do not see how we are to build a marble building for \$55,000. as it is contrary to the policy of the university to construct any buildings, except in accordance with the general character adopted. As you know I have constructed a number of conservatory buildings and am very familiar with all their requirements, and it will take quite a building.

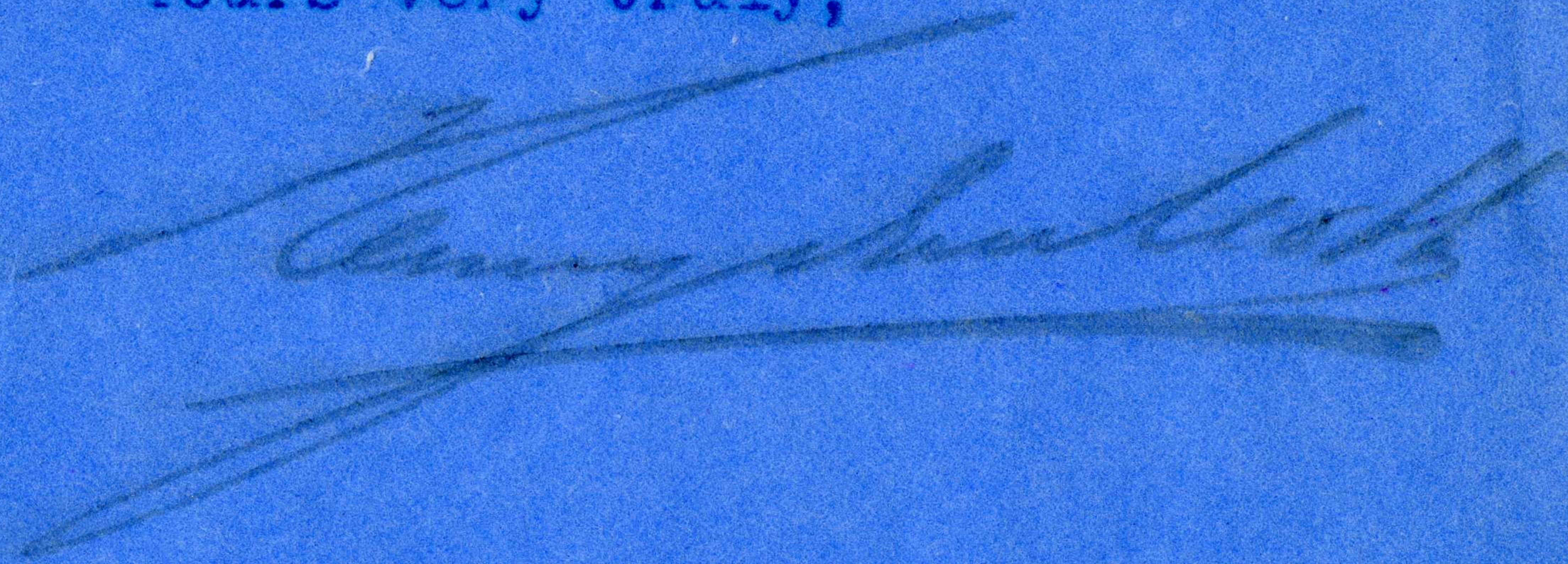
Is it not possible to turn the attention of your man to some thing else. It might be that the \$100,000. would answer for the building of a dome of a building and omit the wings, which would contain certain lecture rooms, labratories, etc. I will, of course, gladly make you any drawings and help in any way I can. I should think the observatory building as contemplated for the university, would cost from \$300,000.00 to \$500,000.00, outside the instruments and more likely the latter figure. The departments will be used by post graduates, and will be a very important department. It is always a difficulty, that we run up against with donations, that the donor wishes to have some specified and individual identification

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with his gift. No matter what its size may be. Would it not be advisable to have one of the wings of the Pennsylvania Buildings, named after him, as I understand he is from Pennsylvania. If you are to be in New York, we can get together and see what can be done. At present I must say, that I do not know what drawings to make for you.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Henry Ives Cobb", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned below the typed closing "Yours very truly," and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Bldg. Observatory
HENRY IVES COBB
ARCHITECT.

Blaze - Parsons

115 BROADWAY, NEW YORK Dec. 31, 03.

W. L. Davidson, D. D., M. D.

1419 F. Street, N. W.

Washington, D. C.

Dear Doctor:

I have been thinking over the observatory building on the lines of your letter of Dec. 24th.

If you agree with me, then I think the best thing to do, is for me to have some drawings prepared, for a building that provides for nothing except, the mounting of the lense. This building although complete in itself can be connected with future additions, by a colonade or otherwise. It will make a very interesting group ultimately, and I should think answer the peculiar conditions that face us. The estimates I made for the American University, were based upon the cost of the Yerkes Observatory in Wisconsin, for which I was Architect, and upon the sketch for the observatory building, shown in the Birds Eye View of the American University, which you will notice, is a large white ^{marble} building.

When you are next in New York, arrange to put in some time with me, so that we can talk things over.

Yours very truly,

Happy New Year to you

Yours

Cobb